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HONGKONG, CHINA, *July 30, 1901.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith the report of inspection work at this station for the week ended July 27, 1901.

Seven hundred and twenty-seven individuals were bathed during the week and 820 bundles of clothing and bedding were disinfected by steam. There were 14 rejections, 13 because of fever and 1 because of leprosy. The British steamship *Gaelic* was disinfected with sulphur to kill rats. Nineteen cases of plague and 20 deaths were reported to the sanitary authorities as occurring in the colony during the week. The total cases and deaths from this disease reported thus far this year are, therefore, 1,590 and 1,518, respectively.

According to the Hongkong Government Gazette the port of Swatow, China, has been declared free from any epidemic of plague, and the port of Karachi, India, has also been declared free from plague. Three cases of enteric fever were reported in this colony during the past week.

Respectfully,

JOHN W. KERR,

Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

[No. 118.]

Further concerning plague in the province of Kwangtung, including Canton.

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES,

Canton, China, July 3, 1901.

SIR: In further continuation of my No. 116, concerning the plague conditions in this consular district, I have to report the receipt of the following communications, which are self-explanatory and have just come to hand:

KIT YANG, CHINA, *June 23, 1901.*

SIR: Your note of June 11, concerning information regarding the bubonic plague, received. Because of itinerating I have been delayed in writing this letter, yet I hope it will not be too late.

The plague made its first appearance at Swatow about seven years ago, and has since then spread in all directions along the coast and inland. Three years ago the large district city Chan Yang, 10 miles southwest of Swatow, had a very bad spell. It is said that over 20,000 persons died in that one city. Swatow no doubt caught the plague from Hongkong. Although Kit Yang is only 35 miles from Swatow, it can not be definitely stated that the plague came to this place from Swatow. I am of the opinion that it was brought to us from Canton, overland. We have positive proof that the region north of Canton and south of this district has been devastated with the plague for the past three and four years. Last year this "trail" (as we will call it) made its appearance at Li O and Mi O, 20 and 30 miles above Kit Yang—that is, inland. Both towns are situated on the southern arm of the Kit Yang River. The dead rats were thrown into the river and carried down towards this city. It is no wonder that we at Kit Yang then have the plague with us. And the inhabitants of Kit Yang are doing the same thing with their rats, and next year no doubt all the towns between Kit Yang and Swatow will have the plague—except they refuse to use the river water. Many villages between Canton and Li O, 70 miles inland from Swatow, have lost one-third to one-half of their inhabitants. When the plague appeared in Kit Yang, I suggested that the roof of every plague house be taken off, and rebuilt after six months, but the officials would not listen to such a measure. In this benighted country nothing is done, the plague will have its run for years to come and many over-populated districts may be thinned out considerably. The printed rules to prevent the plague from spreading, which were posted all over the city, are totally ignored. I have received word that the district city of Hui Lai, about 35 miles south of Kit Yang, has had an awful visitation this year. It is said that only one-fourth of the people are still in the city, one-half having moved to other places for safety. This city was in the direct line of the "trail." Thus far I can only find out that the plague has got inland to the extent of 70 miles, but should I get any other facts I will let you have them. The natives of course do not understand the very first principles of the cause of the plague. It is considered and believed that it is the doings of malignant spirits, hence the other day thousands of men and boys

assembled with a large number of drums and cymbals to frighten the spirits and cause them to leave the town. The crowds came down to the river, hoping to compel the evil spirits to go out with the tide.

Respectfully,

Rev. JACOB SPEICHER,
American Baptist Missionary Union.

Hon. ROBERT M. MCWADE, *United States Consul, Canton, China.*

HENRY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL,
Nodoa, Hainan, China, June 24, 1901.

SIR: Our district city, Dam Chian, has been overrun with plague for the last six months, and the villages between that place and this have become infected to a large degree, and even inland as far as our station here at Nodoa, we have just passed through a season of it, having 20 or more cases here.

In the district city it has been very fatal. We know also that in some of the villages where the plague was prevalent it became so fatal that whole villages left their homes and came, some to Nodoa and some to other villages about here, to get clear of it. In that way the market of Nodoa became infected.

These cases that have occurred here in the market have been very light ones with the exception of 1 case which was very severe but not fatal.

Manson would call these cases abortive or larval plague (*pestis ambulans*).

The symptoms were ordinary, but mild in most cases, fever 103° to 104° F.; the buboes in some cases were small, about the size of a robin's egg, and in some nearly as large as one's fist. In some cases they occurred in the locality of the glands, and in other cases were irregular, occurring on the squamous portion of the temporal bone, on the anterior surface of the tibia, on the elbow joint, on the shoulder, over the ribs, etc., and in some cases on the breasts. In some cases they come on the feet and ankles first.

Only one of the cases which came under my notice was of the hemorrhagic variety, a woman of about 35 years, of a respectable family. In her case it came on with high fever and general depression. She told me she was very fearful she could not get well. Her eyes were open too wide and staring, and she seemed to have great pain in her bones. She came out of her dark bedroom and I looked her over and noticed that her face was swollen and her skin dry. Her mother showed me one bubo, which was on her right shoulder, over the scapula, in part, and partly over the clavicular articulation with the scapula (Acromion process), a very large one, tense and with a great deal of infiltration of the surrounding tissues. I could not find any ecchymotic effusions in this case. The bubo finally broke and bled, and pus followed from it mixed with blood. It will form a deep peculiar eschar, I think. She complained that nothing would stay on her stomach, vomited food and medicine for two days. Her tongue was swollen and coated; her pulse full and fast; but I could not see any other change in it or in her heart sounds which were normal as far as I could ascertain.

After the bubo broke (I intended to lance it, but it ripened sooner than I thought it would) she soon recovered, although it was slow in healing.

When I first went to see her, I thought it was a case of fever (malarial intermittent) and I treated her accordingly, thinking at the time that she was going to have an abscess only. But later, when I found that several people in the market were having these peculiar swellings with fever, I found out what the true cause of the trouble was, with the help of the natives I admit, for I had *never seen plague*, and it did not occur to me that it might be plague until the other cases came to my notice, and in fact until the people came to me and told me that some of these cases were refugees from our district city, fleeing from there because of it.

The people here say that they are in the habit of examining any dead rats they find, and that if their bodies swell up out of all proportion that then they know it was plague that killed them and they are afraid. But if the bodies do not swell up more than is ordinary in rat post-mortem, they know that it was not plague that killed them, and then they need not leave their houses.

The worst of the season of plague in this district seems to be over, although 4 cases have just occurred in Namfang—the next market below us. They tell me that having it light this year that next year it is likely to come on with greater force and virulence, but we will hope for the best.

Respectfully,

Hon. ROBERT MCWADE.

United States Consul, Canton, China.

E. D. VANDERBURGH, M. D.

The foregoing is respectfully submitted.

Respectfully,

ROBERT M. MCWADE,
United States Consul.

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.